



COUNCIL DISTRICT

# FRYE LIGHTS

JUNE 2009

VOLUME VII ISSUE VI



**Serving**

**Bay Ho**

**Bay Park**

**Birdland**

**De Anza**

**Clairemont**

**Kearny Mesa**

**Linda Vista**

**Mission Valley**

**Mission Bay Park**

**Mission Village**

**Morena**

**Serra Mesa**

## ***Mission Valley land dedicated for river park, nature center***

More than 100 supporters of the San Diego River turned out on a sunny Sunday afternoon to mark the dedication of 17 acres of Mission Valley land to the San Diego River Park Foundation for a riparian park and nature center.

The property along Camino del Rio North at Qualcomm Way was donated by descendants of Franklin Grant, who moved to Mission Valley in 1912. The family owns a nearby 230-acre parcel that, after decades as a rock-mining quarry, is slated to be developed over the next 20 years by Sudberry Properties into Quarry Falls, one of the largest mixed-use projects ever proposed in San Diego with 4,780 homes and 900,000 square feet of commercial space.

The River Park Foundation endorsed the development and hosted the festive outdoor dedication ceremony May 17, highlighted by a steel-drum band and a coconut-milk ice cream social. It culminated the foundation's 2009 San Diego River Days events, which over two weekends included dozens of activities from the river's headwaters near Santa Ysabel to its mouth in Ocean Beach.

The foundation intends to raise \$7.5 million over the next three years to build an 8,000-square-foot "Discovery Center" on the donated property in Mission Valley. The center will have interactive displays and will host school tours and workshops on river and wetlands issues.

*(Continued on Page 2)*



**Members of the Grant family signed over a 17-acre parcel to the San Diego River Park Foundation.**



## **Reaching for new heights**

Tai Chi classes, led by Rebecca Chung, are part of a multi-faceted senior-assistance program at Linda Vista's Bayside Community Center. Story on Page 2.

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## Family donates land for river park near Quarry Falls site

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Most of the parcel, reportedly worth \$10 million, will remain an undeveloped – and restored -- native habitat, but it will have some trails, picnic and passive play areas. The “San Diego River Discovery Center at Grant Park” will raise public awareness of and connections to the river, said foundation Executive Director Rob Hutsel.

“For the first time, the river in San Diego will be acknowledged,” he said. “It gives the river a front door.”

One of Franklin Grant’s granddaughters, Pat Grant, serves on the Mission Valley Planning Group. She and a cousin ceremonially signed the property over to the foundation as supporters clapped and cheered.

“This is a legacy they want to leave to this city, not just their family,” said Sudberry Properties president Tom Sudberry, who is on the planning group with Grant.

Sudberry vice president Marco Sessa, also on the planning committee, said the land gift was not tied to any mitigation required for City Council approval of Quarry Falls.

Councilmember Frye applauded the land donation and the river enhancements it will bring.

“Grant Park provides the San Diego community access to a magnificent, natural resource in the region,” she said. “Thanks to the Grant family, this project will serve as a destination for many residents throughout Mission Valley and beyond for all of us to enjoy for years to come.”



A steel drum band entertained participants at the dedication.

## Seniors soar at Bayside Community Center



Instructor Rebecca Chung leads Tai Chi classes as part of Bayside’s Senior STEPS program.

Whether it’s hot lunches, live music and dancing, multilingual in-home services or help managing finances and the public-transit system, senior citizens in Linda Vista are well-served by Bayside Community Center’s Senior STEPS program.

The comprehensive arc of services aims to promote safety, quality of life, cultural diversity, respect and empowerment for the community’s seniors. STEPS is an acronym for Safety Through Education and Prevention Services, said Connie Curran, director of the program.

Thanks to a \$167,000 grant last September from the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Curran said was able to hire a team of multilingual case managers who have been invited into the homes of hundreds of elderly residents. (The grant was made possible through the efforts of Rep. Susan Davis, D-San Diego.)

In addition to providing safety and fall-prevention information, the STEPS staff have produced “vials of life,” information stickers applied to door frames so emergency personnel can learn at a glance vital information regarding medical history and current medications.

Curran, a registered nurse, said a main goal of Senior STEPS is to get seniors out of their homes as much as possible. Group trolley trips to cafes in Santee and Old Town, for example, have taught seniors – some of whom had never used public transit – how easy and cheap it can be to get around town. Curran said the trips have also been great social mixers, as have the regular dances for seniors – with a live band – at the Bayside center, located at 2202 Comstock Street in the heart of Linda Vista.

Mobility, she said, is essential to keeping seniors engaged and a leading way to prevent isolation and depression.

With its main federal grant funding due to expire in September, the Senior STEPS program is actively seeking grants, sponsorships and donations in order to maintain its services. For more information about the program and how you might help, call (858) 278-0771 or visit the center’s Web site, [www.baysideecc.org](http://www.baysideecc.org).





## Pedestrian tunnel under Friars Road expected to reopen this month

If all goes according to plan, hikers, bicyclists and area residents using the Ruffin Canyon trail will soon get a long-awaited shortcut under Friars Road to a popular Mission Valley shopping center and nearby branch library, trolley station and the San Diego River.

The so-called “Ruffin Canyon Public Trail Tunnel” – more commonly known as the “Fenton Tunnel” – is expected to reopen to public use by the end of June, according to city planners.

The tunnel, 15 feet high and wide, was built in the late 1960s for trucks mining a quarry north of Friars across from what is now the Fenton Marketplace shopping center. In the 1980s, after the quarry operation shut down, the tunnel was locked with iron gates to keep transients out.

Senior planner Brian Schoenfisch, the main city planner for Mission Valley, has spearheaded efforts with Councilmember Frye’s staff over the past two years to get the tunnel reopened to the public. The City Council approved the move last fall, but the reopening has been delayed for months as the City Attorney’s Office negotiated liability agreements with lawyers for the adjacent property owners, H.G. Fenton Co. on the north and Sudberry Properties on the south.

Those agreements have finally been signed, Schoenfisch said. All that remains is for Fenton – which owns and manages a large residential complex through which the Ruffin Canyon trail descends from the north -- to complete minor improvements it has agreed to make, such as interior lighting and painting. Fenton executives have assured the city the improvements should be completed by mid-June.

Sudberry, which owns the shopping center anchored by Costco and Ikea, will provide security, including unlocking the tunnel gates on each side around 6 a.m. and re-locking them around 10 p.m. (The hours may change.)

In addition to providing a convenience, the tunnel reopening represents a major step in long-range plans to connect communities on the mesas above Mission Valley to the valley and the San Diego River by trail.

“This starts the north-south connection so you can go from the canyons down to the river and the trolley,” Schoenfisch said. “Serra Mesa and Normal Heights are going to be linked to Mission Valley.”



City planner Brian Schoenfisch (second from right) checked out the locked tunnel gates with a group of hikers during last year’s San Diego River Days.

## *Plaque recognizes LV Shopping Center site’s history*



One of the oldest planned shopping centers in the United States, the Linda Vista Shopping Center, was rededicated in a ceremony in May. A plaque was unveiled commemorating the original dedication of the center in 1942 by then-First Lady Eleanor

Roosevelt. Linda Vista was developed as a government housing project for defense workers, with the construction of “3,000 houses in 300 days.” The original shopping center, demolished in 1972 as part of a redevelopment project, served as the model for the modern American shopping mall. The plaque and rededication ceremony came about through the efforts of the Linda Vista Community Development Corp.



## *Frye joins Holmes students, staff for HERO event*

Councilmember Frye visited her alma mater, Oliver Wendell Holmes Elementary School, May 1 for its Third Annual HERO Run to encourage student athleticism. What began as a vision of several moms has now grown into a premier Clairemont community event.

The HERO Run promotes fitness, wellness and active families. Last year, the children, parents and sponsors raised more than \$24,000 for campus improvements including new sports and playground equipment, a new rock-climbing wall and much more. The school administration, faculty and PTA continue to improve the quality of education at Holmes through creative and resourceful endeavors like the HERO Run, especially during times of state and local budget cuts.



## Rebuilding hope for low-income homeowners

### *Program provides building supplies to community groups*

Rebuilding Together San Diego, a non-profit organization that revitalizes homes and neighborhoods for low-income homeowners and communities in need, has joined as a partner in the Framing Hope product-donation program offered by The Home Depot and Gifts in Kind.

RTSD operates a year-round home-renovation program focusing on the elderly, disabled and families with children who own their homes but are unable to make repairs or cannot afford them.

Home Depot's Framing Hope program, which is administered by the national organization Gifts in Kind, puts surplus building materials — discontinued product lines, custom orders that were returned, odd lots, etc. — into the hands of community organizations for use in low-income neighborhoods.

RTSD officials said they are getting pallets of donated building supplies delivered to their local warehouse on a biweekly basis.

"We want to share these products with other non-profits who can utilize this merchandise in their programs or facilities, or by directly giving them to low-income homeowners who can make repairs themselves but cannot afford the materials," a spokeswoman said. "We understand that not everyone is in a position to receive and house a volume of merchandise, and this is why we want to support our fellow community partners with this benefit — because we can."

RTSD has a wide-range of supplies and will send out a monthly inventory of available items to organizations that sign onto a distribution list. For more details on this program and on how your organization can receive a direct benefit of donated material, contact Pamela Thorsch, RTSD executive director, at (619) 231-7873 or [pamela@rebuildingtogethersd.org](mailto:pamela@rebuildingtogethersd.org).





## Council salutes water conservation poster winners

On May 5, the City Council honored the creative achievement of San Diego schoolchildren who entered artworks in the City's Ninth Annual Water Conservation Poster Contest.

Thousands of students, kindergarten through sixth grade, used their artistic talents and water conservation knowledge to create meaningful messages in their classrooms. Teachers chose more than 400 entries Citywide to be considered in the Poster Contest.

The award-winning posters will be featured in the 2010 Water Conservation Poster Calendar and displayed at the San Diego Watercolor Society Gallery alongside professional art work.

The list of winners included three from Clairemont's Holmes Elementary School: First-place winner Jessica Borchardt, who is in the fifth grade; third-place winner Alisha Di Donna, a third-grader; and third-place winner Savannah ter Veer, fifth grade.

The City encourages all citizens to continue to be water wise and recognize that water is our most precious natural resource.



Mayor Sanders (upper left center), Councilmember Frye (upper right) and other Council colleagues recognized elementary-school artists who made award-winning water conservation posters for the annual contest.

## *Frye recognizes 50th anniversary of Whitman school*



On May 15, 2009, Councilmember Frye attended a ceremony at Whitman Elementary School in Clairemont to help celebrate its 50<sup>th</sup> birthday. She proclaimed the day "Whitman Elementary School 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Day" in District Six and commended the thousands of students and staff who have walked through its doors for their excellent work and commitment to high-quality education.

Starting out in bungalows on a dirt lot, the school officially opened in 1958. Students and administrators last month marked what was the culmination of its 50th year.

Whitman Elementary School was named after the legendary American poet who worked as a printer, teacher, and editor, among other occupations. His first volume of poetry, *Leaves of Grass*, was published in 1856 when he was just 36 years old. Walt Whitman is now believed by many to be America's greatest poet.





## SANDAG assembling panel to ponder transit link options

Volunteers are needed to serve on a group studying a proposed rail/bus transit extension from Old Town through Linda Vista and Clairemont to University City and La Jolla.

A “project working group” for the Mid-Coast Corridor Transit Project, as the extension is called, will consist of a cross-section of transportation and environmental experts, residents of affected communities, business owners and employers, advocates for taxpayers and the disabled, students and other interested citizens.

To be considered for a seat on the 22-member group, a completed application must be submitted to SANDAG (the San Diego Association of Governments) by June 22. Downloadable applications and additional information are available at [www.sandag.org/midcoast](http://www.sandag.org/midcoast) or by calling (619) 699-1937.



## Retired senior patrol seeks recruits



Attention anyone over age 50: Looking for a great way to help the community? The San Diego Police Department could use you in the Retired Senior Volunteer Patrol.

Among other duties, RSVP members assist investigations, provide traffic control, look for stolen vehicles, conduct radar speed surveys, patrol handicap parking zones and give safety presentations. Candidates should be in good health, able to pass a background check and willing to work at least 24 hours a month.

Additional information is available from RSVP administrator Jim Doyle in the department's Traffic Division, (858) 495-7827





*Mesa College  
students show  
glitz & glamour  
at 28th annual  
fashion show*



Models exhibited eye-popping designs...

Councilmember Frye was among hundreds of enthusiastic supporters at the 28<sup>th</sup> annual Golden Scissors Fashion Show and Awards Gala. The May 15 event at the Town & Country Hotel in Mission Valley featured students in the Mesa College fashion program exhibiting their creations. Award-winners for designs in categories from evening wear to casual enjoyed a resume boost from this venerable and prestigious competition.



Frye met designer Barbara Lekes, whose collection was in the show. Lekes' creations also have been shown in New York and Italy.



...And wowed the crowd at the Town & Country.



## 2009 San Diego Public Library Summer Reading Program

Check out this summer's fun and free events at District Six Branch libraries!

**North Clairemont Library**  
4616 Clairemont Drive  
(858) 581-9931

*Programs begin at 10:30am*  
*Suggested for Ages 3-12*

Jun. 23 Literature Comes to Life  
with Stacey Wein

Jun. 30 Dori Smith Puppeteer



**Linda Vista Branch Library**  
2160 Ulric Sreet  
(858) 573-1399

*Programs begin at 10:00am*

Jun. 16 Craig Newton, Musician

Jun. 24 Amazing Dana, Magician

Jun. 30 Mad Science

Jul. 7 Joe Gandelman, Ventriloquist

Jul. 14 Tom Jensen, Puppets

Jul. 21 Craig Stone, Magician

Jul. 28 Millie Patterson, Puppet Show

\* Teachers and recreation leaders:  
Please call ahead for group reservations.

**Mission Valley Library**  
2123 Fenton Parkway  
(858) 573-5007

Jun. 1 & 15 **Yoga for Kids, Ages 2-3: 1:15-1:45pm; Ages 4-5: 1:50-2:30pm**  
Teaches kids self-control, patience, and self-confidence in a fun and playful environment.

Jun. 8 & 22 **Weight Loss Support Group, 6:30-7:30pm**  
Certified personal trainer and nutritional counselor, Veronica Hilas leads a free support group.

Jun. 10 **Seminar: Project Debt Relief, 6:30-7:30pm**  
Attorney Larissa L. Lazarus will provide a free seminar on debt education and how to get out of debt.

Jun. 10 **Musical Concert: Peter Rutman Band, 6:30pm**  
The Peter Rutman Band will be playing soft classics, upbeat headliners, jazz, blues, and Latin tunes.

Jun. 15 **Seminar: Natural Solutions to Headache Pain, 6:30pm**  
The Acupuncture & Wellness Clinic will educate attendees about the different types of headaches, what causes them, how to prevent them, and safe, natural and effective alternatives to treating them.

Jun. 17 **Seminar: Benefits and Resources in San Diego County, 6:00-7:30pm**  
Learn about various community resources from Pamela Ritz, JFS and Gary Rotto, Director of Health Policy, Community Clinics.

Jun. 22 **Baby-Toddler & Pre-School Storytime, 10:30am**  
Baby Toddler- June 2, 9, 16, 23, 30  
Pre-School- June 4, 11







## Important Phone Numbers

Abandoned Vehicles	858-495-7856
Animal Regulation	619-236-4250
Beach & Bay Advisory	619-338-2073
Birth and Death Records	619-237-0502
Brush Abatement	619-533-4444
Building Permits	619-446-5000
Buses/MTS Access	619-233-3004
Canyon Watchers Program	858-292-6484
City Council Docket Info	619-533-4000
City Directory	619-236-5555
<b>Code Violations</b>	<b>619-236-5500</b>
Curb Maintenance	619-527-7500
Dead Animal Removal	858-694-7000
Dog Licenses	619-767-2675
Fire Stations	619-533-4300
<b>Graffiti</b>	<b>619-525-8522</b>
<b>Hazardous Materials Hotline</b>	<b>858-694-7000</b>
Housing Commission	619-231-9400
Humane Society	619-299-7012
Libraries	
Balboa	858-573-1390
Clairemont	858-581-9935
Linda Vista	858-573-1399
Mission Valley	858-573-5000
North Clairemont	858-581-9931
Serra Mesa	858-573-1396
Noise Regulation	619-236-5500
Office of Small Business	619-685-1390
Park and Recreation	619-525-8219
<b>Parking Citations</b>	<b>619-236-7145</b>
<b>Police: Non-Emergency</b>	<b>619-531-2000</b>
<b>Pot Hole Hotline</b>	<b>619-527-7500</b>
Recreation Centers	
Kearny Mesa	858-573-1387
Linda Vista	858-573-1392
North Clairemont	858-581-9926
Serra Mesa	858-573-1408
South Clairemont	858-581-9924
Tecolote	858-581-9933
Recycling Hotline	858-694-7000
Senior Citizens Services	619-236-6905
Serra Mesa Community Connection	858-565-2473
Sewer Repair/Spills	619-515-3525
<b>Sidewalk Maintenance</b>	<b>619-527-7500</b>
<b>Social Services Information</b>	<b>211</b>
<b>Stormwater Pollution Hotline</b>	<b>619-235-1000</b>
Street Lights	619-527-7500
Street Sweeping	619-527-7500
Traffic Control	619-533-3126
<b>Tree Maintenance</b>	<b>619-527-7500</b>
Waste Reduction & Disposal	858-492-5010
<b>Water Emergency</b>	<b>619-515-3525</b>
<b>Water Utilities</b>	<b>619-515-3500</b>
Zoning Regulation Information	619-236-5555

## District Six Community Meetings

### Balboa Avenue Citizens Advisory Committee

Place: To be announced  
When: 4th Wednesday/Month (may vary)  
Time: 7:00 p.m.

### Clairemont Town Council, <http://www.clairemontonline.com/>

Place: Clairemont High School Cafeteria  
4150 Ute Drive  
When: 1st Thursday/Month  
Time: 7:00 p.m.

### Clairemont Mesa Planning Committee

Place: LiveWell San Diego (formerly Clairemont Senior Friendship Center)  
4425 Bannock Ave.  
When: 3rd Tuesday/Month  
Time: 6:30 p.m.

### Kearny Mesa Planning Group

Place: Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library  
9005 Aero Drive  
When: 3rd Wednesday/Month  
Time: 12:00 p.m.

### Linda Vista Town Council

Place: Baha'i Center  
6545 Alcala Knolls Drive  
When: 3rd Thursday/Month  
Time: 6:30 p.m.

### Linda Vista Planning Group

Place: Linda Vista Library  
2160 Ulric Street  
When: 4th Monday/Month  
Time: 6:00 p.m.

### Mission Bay Park Committee

Place: Rotating Venue  
When: 1st Tuesday/Month  
Time: 6:00 p.m.

### Mission Valley Community Council

Place: Mission Valley Library  
2123 Fenton Parkway  
When: 3rd Monday/Odd Months  
Time: 6:30 p.m.

### Mission Valley Planning Group

Place: Mission Valley Library  
2123 Fenton Parkway  
When: 1st Wednesday/Month  
Time: 12:00 p.m.

### Serra Mesa Community Council

Place: Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library  
9005 Aero Drive  
When: 4th Wednesday/Month  
Time: 6:30 p.m.

### Serra Mesa Planning Group

Place: Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library  
9005 Aero Drive  
When: 3rd Thursday/Month  
Time: 7:00 p.m.



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FRYE LIGHTS: CELEBRATING THE DISTRICT SIX SPIRIT



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[www.sandiego.gov/cd6](http://www.sandiego.gov/cd6)

Register to receive updates & event information from Councilmember Frye  
by signing up in the "Frye Lights" box at [www.sandiego.gov/cd61](http://www.sandiego.gov/cd61)